

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSCE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 SSO-00 DRC-01 INRE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7701

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: A. STATE 208762

B. STATE 205988

1. MISSION APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT LETTER (REF A), WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE ON TARGET AND IN CONSONANCE WITH AGREED ACTION PROGRAM.

2. WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT LETTER:

A. IN THIRD PARA REPLACE QUOTE AND IS RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT DEFENSE END QUOTE WITH QUOTE AND QUESTIONS THE NEED FOR LARGE EXPENDITURES ON DEFENSE END QUOTE.

B. REPLACE SIXTH PARA BEGINNING WITH QUOTE THESE AREAS END QUOTE THROUGH QUOTE MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT END QUOTE WITH FOLLOWING: BEGIN QUOTE: THESE DIFFICULTIES DID NOT ARISE OVERNIGHT AND ARE COMPLICATED BY RECENT TRENDS:

SOVIETS HAVE STEADILY CONTINUED TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY
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CAPABILTTIES (E.G., SOVIET ATTAINMENT OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR PARITY AND EXPANDED DEPLOYMENT OF THE SOVIET FLEET); ALLIED COSTS FOR SUPPORTING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND PROCURING MODERN EQUIPMENT HAVE RISEN SHARPLY; AND PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS FOR

IMPROVED EAST-WEST RELATIONS HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY CSCE, MBFR AND SALT NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE.

C. REVISE FIRST PORTION OF PARA 7 QUOTE WITH THIS CONJUNCTURE
END QUOTE THROUGH QUOTE BUSINESS AS USUAL END QUOTE WITH FOLLOWING:
QUOTE: IN THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION RECENTLY SIGNED BY HEADS
OF GOVERNMENTS, ALLIED NATIONS PLEDGED RENEWED COMMITMENT TO
COLLECTIVE SECURITY. WE BELIEVE, AT THIS JUNCTURE, THAT NATO
SHOULD NOT CARRY ON BUSINESS AS USUAL END QUOTE. MISSION SUPPORTS
REMAINDER OF EXISTING PARA.

D. REPLACE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 10 BEGINNING WITH QUOTE
WE DO NOT INSIST END QUOTE WITH FOLLOWING NEW SENTENCE:
QUOTE: AGREEMENT TO SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN THE US DRAFT IS NOT
SO IMPORTANT AS THE SERIOUS EXAMINATION AND DISCUSSION OF
THE KEY ELEMENTS END QUOTE.

E. IN PARA 12 DEALING WITH KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEFENSE
CONCEPT FOR THE LONG HAUL, CHANGE QUOTE ATTAINMENT AND MAINTENANCE
OF A PERCEPTIBLE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE END QUOTE TO QUOTE
ATTAINMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF AN ACCEPTABLE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE
END QUOTE. THIS ACCORDS WITH LANGUAGE IN CIRCULATED US DISCUSSION
PAPER. IN KEY ELEMENT BEGINNING QUOTE SEARCH FOR ADDITIONAL
DEFENSE EFFECTIVENESS END QUOTE INSERT QUOTE EMPHASIS ON
HIGH PRIORITY FORCE IMPROVEMENTS END QUOTE AFTER EXISTING WORD
THROUGH.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS SECDEF LETTER BE FORWARDED TO MODS
BY SEPTEMBER 24 TO FACILITATE USNATO WORK IN DRC. AFTER APPROVAL
OF LETTER PLEASE NOTIFY MISSION BY IMMEDIATE MESSAGE.

4. MISSION SUGGESTS FORWARDING COPY O SECDEF LETTER TO AMEMB
PARIS AND ATHENS FOR APPROPRIATE TIME-AND -PLACE DISCUSSION
WITH FRENCH AND GREEK AUTHORITIES. PER PARA 4 OF REFTEL B,
MISSION POUCHED TO AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN ALL NATO CAPITALS
COMPLETE TEXT OF US DISCUSSION PAPER ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE.
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